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Senator Blease Given Ovation at His Home

THE STATE CAMPAIGN MEETING IN NEWBERRY

BLEASE REPLIED TO PREACH- ERS' CARD IN THE STATE.

The Lie Passed During Addresses of
Railroad Commissioners—Meet-
ing Attended by About One
Thousand People.

(By Jno. K. Aull.)

At the State campaign meeting in Newberry on Wednesday—in the town and county where Senator Cole L. Blease, candidate for governor, was born and reared, and where he has labored and risen to prominence as a member of the bar—Mr. Blease was given an ovation which has probably not been equalled at a campaign meeting in Newberry since the days when factionalism had torn in twain the Democratic party in South Carolina.

Sensation followed sensation during the meeting. The candidates for railroad commissioner were the first speakers, and during their addresses the lie was passed, and a personal altercation seemed imminent. As a result of a dispute in regard to the action of the railroad commissioners as to a complaint from Harper's, on the Georgetown and Western railroad, Railroad Commissioner Caughman told his opponent, Mr. Fishburne, that he was a liar and the truth wasn't in him. Mr. Fishburne advanced upon Mr. Caughman, but Chairman Dominick stepped between the belligerents and no blows were raised. Messrs. Caughman and Fishburne apologized, and the audience applauded each, and the incident was ended. The addresses of the candidates for railroad commissioner, State superintendent of education, and adjutant and inspector general appear on the second page of this issue of The Herald and News, and the excitement attending the passing of the lie is reported in detail on the second page.

In the Columbia State of Wednesday morning appeared a card signed by several of the ministers of Newberry, (which is published elsewhere in this issue), to the effect that they did not, directly or indirectly, endorse the candidacy of Senator Blease. Senator Blease in the opening of his address in Newberry on Wednesday morning took up this card and handled it with gloves off stating in the outset that he had not asked the ministers of Newberry to endorse his candidacy, but that he had placed his personal character in issue before the people of South Carolina, inviting the people of the State to inquire of Dr. J. W. Wolling, pastor of Central Methodist church—Senator Blease's church—as to his character and standing in Newberry. The name of Dr. Wolling, Mr. Blease's pastor, did not appear in the card of some of the ministers of Newberry stating that they did not endorse Mr. Blease's candidacy. Mr. Blease, among other things, stated that he had defended for murder B. Whit Goodwin, who killed a brother-in-law of the Rev. Geo. A. Wright, one of the ministers whose name appeared signed to the card, and that another of the ministers who had signed the card—the Rev. J. E. James—had never seen, and he doubted if that minister had ever seen him. In this connection, in passing, he made some caustic remarks in regard to Mr. W. H. Wallace, editor of the Newberry Observer. When Senator Blease attacked Mr. Wallace for not defending his (Mr. Wallace's) pastor, Dr. Wolling, against the attacks of certain newspapers, Mr. Wallace arose with the request that he be allowed to ask a question. The incident created considerable excitement, which was finally quieted by Chairman Dominick, and the question was never asked.

Mr. Blease stated that he had placed his personal character in issue before the people of South Carolina and during the heated campaign through which he had passed he stood before the people of Newberry on this occasion with none venturing to assail that character. The continuous and industrious efforts of his opponents had been able to elicit nothing further than a statement from some of the ministers of Newberry to the effect, simply and solely, that they did not endorse his candidacy, and the conclusion was inevitable that they could find not an impropriety in his life or a defect in his character. He wanted any who were strangers in Newberry on this occasion to inquire into the record of the Blease family in Newberry county, and he challenged any who had aught to say against his personal character or his private life to rise.

Senator Blease's challenge was greeted only by deafening applause. He said his bitterest enemies admitted his ability and the fact that he stood on the strongest platform on which a man in South Carolina had ever sought the office of governor of South Carolina—the highest honor within the gift of any people—and in their desperation they had been driven to an attack upon his personal character, which attack, he said, had failed most ignominiously.

Senator Blease's remarks were constantly greeted with applause, and the ovation which he received was genuine and sincere.

The remainder of Senator Blease's speech, which is reported in detail below, was practically the same speech which he has been making elsewhere throughout the campaign, charging Governor Ansel's administration with being the most extravagant since the days of Republicanism, opposing extravagance, opposing the immigration department, attacking Governor Ansel for the appointment of a negro notary in Greenville, and promising if elected to enforce all the laws.

Governor Ansel was greeted with applause, and was given close and respectful attention throughout his address. He defended the Ansel administration against Mr. Blease's attacks of extravagance, reviewed his record, defended his appointment of a negro notary, citing the example set by Senator Tillman and other governors, and stated his position on the liquor question. A detailed synopsis of his address appears below.

The candidates were met at the train by a committee from the county Democratic executive committee, headed by County Chairman Fred H. Dominick. The committee was accompanied by a number of voters of the town and county and by the West End brass band.

The candidates while in Newberry were the guests of Senator Blease at the Newberry hotels.

The Meeting in Detail.

County Chairman Fred H. Dominick presided, and the meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. J. W. Wolling, pastor of Central Methodist church.

Chairman Dominick said it was a source of much congratulation to see so large an audience present, and on behalf of the people of Newberry and of Newberry county he extended all the candidates a warm welcome, and bespoke for each close and earnest attention.

The candidates for railroad commissioner were the first speakers, and were followed by the candidates for State superintendent of education and adjutant and inspector general. The addresses of these gentlemen appear on the second page of this issue. Each of them was well received and liberally applauded.

Senator Blease's Address.

Senator Blease, in opening his address, took up the card published in the Columbia State, signed by several of the Newberry ministers, stating that they did not, directly or indirectly, endorse his candidacy. He

read the following statement, which he handed to the newspaper reporters present, and asked them in all fairness, to publish:

"I have assailed no man's character and have studiously refrained from making charges against Governor Ansel, and make none today. His official acts only have I criticized, without reflection on his character. I have volunteered to put my life and character before the people, so that any person or persons who might desire would have the opportunity to assail it. This invitation has been repeated again and again. I have defied my opponents to show any impropriety in my life or any flaw in my character, and after these repeated invitations my enemies have failed to elicit anything against me except the bare statement that certain ministers at Newberry do not endorse my candidacy, and they have based their position solely upon statements not specified made by me during this campaign, and they have not intimated that their failure to endorse my candidacy is because of any misdeeds in my life or my character. The inevitable conclusion is that all the industrious opposition of my adversaries has produced nothing beyond the statement of certain ministers that they do not favor my candidacy, and the further conclusion is inevitable that my enemies can show nothing against me. And I stand here today, after all this heated campaign, with no man venturing to accuse me, and I challenge all the world to point out one blot in my record or upon my personal character, and if there be one here who accepts the challenge let him rise."

Continuing, Senator Blease said that he had defended B. Whit Goodwin for murder in this county, and "I am not to blame that the man he killed was a brother-in-law of the Rev. Geo. A. Wright, and that the Rev. Geo. A. Wright has so far lost his religion as to go among the stranger ministers of this county and seek to stab me in the back, like Judas Iscariot with the kiss that betrayed his Christ. Here is what I have said all over South Carolina: If this is not sufficient, write to the pastor of the Methodist church at Newberry and ask him as to my standing and if he considers me honorable. I have never made one reference to the ministers of Newberry, and I call upon you honorable gentlemen (indicating the campaign party) to say whether or not that statement is true. The candidates of this campaign party, including his excellency, the governor, know it. Who is the Rev. Dr. Wolling? A man in your town who has been abused by certain newspapers, and vilified, and yet there is an editor of a paper in Newberry who goes to his church every Sunday morning and every Sunday night, and who accepts communion at his hands, who hasn't got the nerve and the manhood to defend him from these vilifications."

At this point Mr. W. H. Wallace, editor of the Newberry Observer, arose from the newspaper desk and started to the platform with the request: "Let me ask one question." Intense excitement prevailed for a few moments. Mr. Wallace resumed his seat and Chairman Dominick finally restored quiet and Mr. Blease proceeded, the question unasked.

"The Rev. Dr. Wolling," said Mr. Blease, "was born and reared in South Carolina. He is a minister of the gospel, a man whom the Methodist church of South Carolina sent to a foreign country to teach the people there to love God and to follow and obey his commandments. He is a man who, in all the years, has stood with his hands upon the Bible of Jesus Christ and his feet planted upon a religion that some preachers haven't got, or they wouldn't show malice. I challenge anybody today to say one word against his character, and the cowards who stabbed him in the back are like the Spaniards who use the stiletto in the darkness of the night. And you know it."

Mr. Blease then took up the issues of the campaign, charging that the Ansel administration was the

most extravagant since the days of Republicanism in South Carolina. If Governor Ansel or any man in the audience would disprove a statement that he made, he would withdraw from the race and not hypothetically from the race for governor, "and come back home and ask my own good minister, and not hypocrites, to pray for me." While the assessment of taxable property in South Carolina had doubled the levy had been raised, and he jumped with both feet on extravagant appropriations, citing the figures as to the appropriations to which he referred, and reading from the reports of the comptroller general and the other State officers to prove his assertions.

He quoted Governor Ansel's annual message on the bureau of immigration: "I therefore recommend that you take such steps as may to you seem wise to foster and sustain the department of immigration now accomplishing so much work." Senator Blease said it had cost the State \$16,000 to bring over the boat load of immigrants who came in the Witekink, and Governor Ansel could not point out one today who was making an honest living, and yet the immigration department cost the State \$11,500 last year. "At Union," he said, "I asked Governor Ansel, 'If re-elected, will you recommend the abolition of the department of immigration?' He looked at me and he must have thought of Paul and Agrippa. He said, I think I shall. He came almost saying, 'Almost thou hast persuaded me.'" Senator Blease said he would welcome into this country good citizens from other countries, but he did not believe in bringing in the scum of the earth.

"What does it mean to you factory boys," he asked. "They will reduce your wages until you can't work for the wages they offer, and then tell you they have but a population that will work for less. They can't work because the hum of the machinery puts them to sleep."

Senator Blease attacked the appointment by Governor Ansel of a negro notary public in Greenville. He said that Mr. Geo. Johnstone, candidate for the United States senate, had jumped on Mr. Rhett, one of his opponents, for appointing negro policemen in Charleston, and nothing had been said, "but as soon as Blease jumped on Ansel for appointing a negro notary the 'peanut' editor in Newberry jumped on me with a long editorial. Is it because of personal opposition to me, or is it because of the personal feeling he has against the Blease family in years gone by? You people know, and I thank God you do know. I thank God you know Henry Blease. I thank God you know the Blease family. I want to say in the presence of these people who may be strangers, I want them to ask who they are. I thank God that a member of the Blease family never has gone back on a friend or bowed his knee to any second-rate on earth, he is peanut editor or what."

The Columbia State had defended Governor Ansel in the appointment of the negro notary by saying that Governor Tillman had appointed Joshua Wilson, a negro, notary public. That negro was post master at Florence now giving the people there much trouble. Take the negro appointed notary at Greenville. The petition for his election recited that he was a citizen and qualified elector and that he desired to be appointed notary public and that he was a man of honor—signed by attorneys and members of the legislature. The commission signed by Governor Ansel read, "I, reposing special confidence in your care, prudence and integrity, do hereby commission and appoint you a notary public." Now, that negro goes to Washington, and goes into Taft's office, if Taft is elected president, and says, I want to be post master. He asked what his recommendations are. He says that he has a certificate from the citizens of his home city saying that he is an honorable man. He is asked what else he has. He points to a commission from the governor of South Carolina.

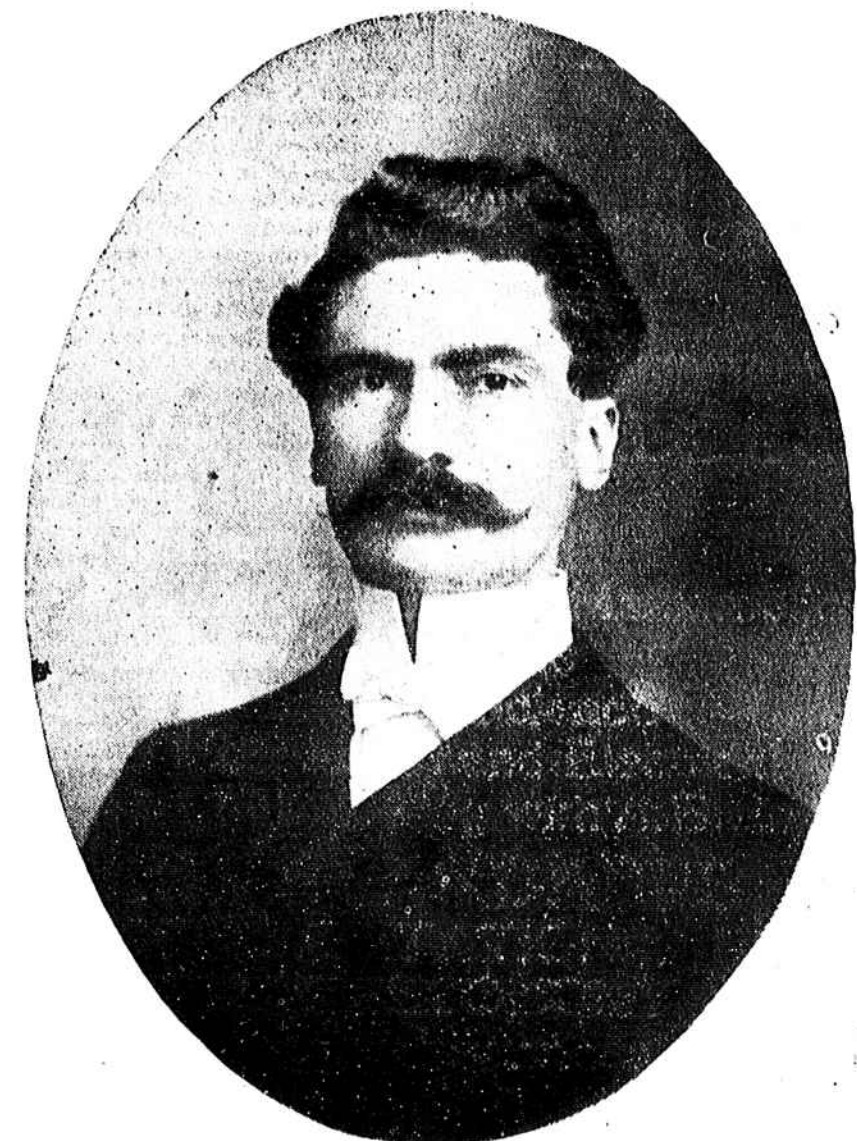
Colie Blease, as he was familiarly called, attended the schools in Newberry, and then Newberry college. When not in school he was usually at work in his father's livery stable. Colie's mother died when he was quite small.

Young Blease was given to speech making as a boy, had a legal mind, and naturally turned his attention to the study of the law. He read law in the office of Hon. George S. Mower. Later he attended the South Carolina college and the Georgetown University of Law, at Washington, D. C.

HON. COLE L. BLEASE.

Sketch of the Senator From Newberry, Who is a Candidate For Governor of South Carolina.

Coleman Livingston Blease was born about forty years ago on a farm



in Newberry county. His grandfather, Thomas W. Blease, lived at Edgefield and married Bethany Coleman. In that town Henry H. Blease, father of Senator Blease was born; but when a young man he moved to Newberry county. The Bleases are of the common people, Henry and his three brothers being apprenticed to various trades when boys by their widowed mother, the father of Cole L. Blease being a tinner by trade.

Cole L. Blease's father and his father's three brothers saw service in the Confederate army. Basil Blease, because of his daring bravery, was steadily promoted from the position of a private to that of a captain.

Henry H. Blease married Mary Livingston, of what is now Saluda county, formerly Edgefield. The Livingstons were all farming people. The four brothers of Mary Blease were soldiers of the Confederacy.

All the Bleases and Livingstons were true to the cause of Wade Hampton in the days of '76. Hartwell Blease, an uncle of Senator Blease, was for a long time confined by the Yankees in the Charleston jail because of charges preferred against him on account of the Ku Klux.

While Cole L. Blease was a child, his parents moved to the town of Newberry. Here his father engaged in the mercantile business and conducted a livery and sale stable and hotel. For several years Mr. Blease was trial justice for the town of Newberry, and his ability and integrity were recognized throughout the whole of Newberry county. He was one of the most popular men who has ever lived in Newberry county. For years he was a leader in the work of the Methodist church.

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Mr. Blease located at his home

town for the practice of his profession. It was not long before he became one of the leaders of the bar, and he has continuously enjoyed an excellent practice. For the past fifteen years he has been connected with many of the important cases tried in the courts of Newberry county. He

has also been associated in important cases in Saluda, Laurens, Greenwood, Union, Lexington, Oelander, Kershaw, and Dorchester counties. For two years he served as city attorney of Newberry.

Senator Blease was married several years ago to Miss Lillie Summers, whose father, a farmer, resides in Anderson county. Mrs. Blease's father was a Confederate soldier, her grandfather was in the Mexican war, and her great-grandfather was Capt. Philemon Waters, a soldier of the Revolution. Being descended from him, Mrs. Blease is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Blease are members of the Central Methodist church, of Newberry.

Upon the death of his father, Mr. Blease became virtually head of the family, and assisted his step-mother in rearing and educating two half brothers and one half sister.

When Cole L. Blease was a very young man he was chosen to represent Newberry county in the house of representatives. Twice he was re-elected, each time heading the legislative ticket by a handsome majority. In the house he was recognized as a leader; because of his ability as a parliamentarian he was twice selected as speaker pro tem.

For two years he was county chairman of the Democratic executive committee. Several times in succession he was elected by the county conventions as a delegate to the State conventions, this year being chosen by acclamation. For the past ten years he has represented his county on the State executive committee. In 1904 Mr. Blease was nominated to the State senate by a handsome majority. Two years ago he was elected by the members of the senate as president pro tem. of that body.

In politics Mr. Blease has always been a straight Democrat. In 1896 and in 1900 he was one of the presidential electors for William J. Bryan, the Democratic presidential nominee.

In the house and in the senate Mr. Blease has always stood for an economical administration of the government, opposing extravagant appropriations and the establishment of

(Continued on page four.)

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